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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/893,209

09/19/2001

Song Kim

7091-103/10102873

5641

7590 03/02/2007
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TRINH T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3644

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

03/02/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/893,209

Applicant(s)

KIM, SONG

Examiner

Trinh T. Nguyen

Art Unit

3644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 March 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Serwer (US 3030696) in view of Tramont (US 5693141).

Serwer discloses a paint roller having a roller tube (15) with first and second ends, at least one end being open and an axial cavity located between first and second ends, a sponge-like member (12) comprising a flat strip of sponge-like of predetermined thickness connected to a base material (11), the strip being wound diagonally along the longitudinal axis of the roller tube, and a means (22,23,21) for rotatably connecting the roller tube to the axle.

Serwer lacks to mention that (1) the sponge-like member is a natural sponge member and (2) the base material is cotton.

Regarding 1), Tramont teaches that it is old and well known in the art of paint roller making to use either a natural or synthetic sponge member having sponge protrusions so as to apply paint to a surface in a positive design form (see lines 60-63 of col. 8, lines 1-10 of col. 9 and Figures 4 and 9). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have replaced Serwer's sponge-like member with a natural sponge member, in a similar

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manner as taught in Tramont, since using natural sponge is cheaper than synthetic sponge due to the cost of manufacturing a synthetic sponge.

Regarding 2), it is noted that Serwer teaches the use of a backing/base layer as claimed but made of a "substantially non-elastic material, such as paper of others suitable flexible non-elastic sheeting" and not of cotton. Furthermore, Applicant indicates on page 5 of the specification that "other materials can be used as the backing material, such as fabric materials other than cotton, plastic sheets and rubber, natural or synthetic". Hence, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the specific backing/base material as claimed is a matter of design choice, wherein no significant problem is solved, or unexpected result obtained by constructing the backing/base material out of either cotton, or fabric, or plastic sheets, or rubber versus the backing/base material utilized by Serwer, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 3/7/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. In response to Applicant's arguments with respect to Tramont, it is noted that Tramont was relied upon to show that it is old and well known in the art of paint roller making to use either a natural or synthetic sponge member having sponge protrusions so as to apply paint to a surface in a positive design form (see lines 60-63 of col. 8, lines

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1-10 of col. 9 and Figures 4 and 9). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have replaced Serwer's sponge-like member with a natural sponge member, in a similar manner as taught in Tramont, since using natural sponge is cheaper than synthetic sponge due to the cost of manufacturing a synthetic sponge.

Conclusion


5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trinh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6906. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 A.M to 6:00 P.M). The examiner's supervisor, Teri Luu can be reached on (571) 272-7045 for the purpose of status inquiry only. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Trinh T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3644

3/1/07